

REMARKS

In response to the Examiner's comments and requirements in paragraphs 3-6 on pages 2-3 of the Office Action, Applicant encloses, from the file of the International Application (PCT/EP99/06960, published under No. WO 00/17719) the cover page of the published International Application showing that US is a designated state, and a copy of the PCT Request ("ANTRAG") showing that the "US" is a designated state. Applicant certifies that the International Application was not withdrawn or considered to be withdrawn, either generally or as to the United States, prior to the filing date of the national application claiming benefit under 35 U.S.C. 120 and 365(c) to such international application.

In response to the Examiner's requirement, Applicant files the enclosed substitute specification in both clean and marked-up form. The substitute specification contains no new matter with respect to the amended International Application.

With respect to the Office Action at page 4, paragraphs 9 and 10, Applicant respectfully requests the Examiner to reconsider and withdraw the objections to the claims in view of the above corrective amendments thereto.

Likewise, with respect to page 5, paragraph 12, Applicant respectfully requests the Examiner to reconsider and withdraw the rejections of claims 50-59 under 35 U.S.C. § 112, second paragraph, in view of the above corrective amendments to these claims.

Claim 59 has been further amended to make it dependent on claim 58 (58/50) and to include the limitation of claim 54.

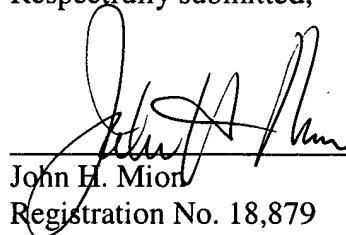
AMENDMENT UNDER 37 C.F.R. § 1.111
U.S. APPLN. NO. 09/812,568

With respect to the Office Action at page 6, paragraph 14, since claims 51-59 have been amended to overcome the Examiner's objections thereto and the rejections under 35 U.S.C. § 112, second paragraph, Applicant respectfully requests the Examiner to reconsider and withdraw all requirements, objections and rejections, and to find the application now to be in condition for allowance with claims 51-59. (Claims 36-49 have been canceled without prejudice.)

If for any reason the Examiner feels that the application is not now in condition for allowance, the Examiner is respectfully requested to **call the undersigned attorney** to discuss any unresolved issues and to expedite the disposition of the application.

Applicant files concurrently herewith a Petition (with fee) for an Extension of Time of One Month. Applicant hereby petitions for any extension of time which may be required to maintain the pendency of this application, and any required fee for such extension is to be charged to Deposit Account No. 19-4880. The Commissioner is also authorized to charge any additional fees under 37 C.F.R. § 1.16 and/or § 1.17 necessary to keep this application pending in the Patent and Trademark Office or credit any overpayment to said Deposit Account No. 19-4880.

Respectfully submitted,



John H. Mion
Registration No. 18,879

SUGHRUE MION, PLLC
2100 Pennsylvania Avenue, N.W.
Washington, D.C. 20037-3213
(202) 663-7901

WASHINGTON OFFICE

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CUSTOMER NUMBER

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